

when your amendment comes up. If you adopt the Burrows amendment, you are taking that flexibility and direction away from the Legislature and you are putting it in a pot, a pot that very well may not be used again as it has not been used this year. Now, Senator Burrows, I have substantial confidence in the mental retardation regions in this state. They have had their problems. They generally are well staffed. I think they are directed. I believe that we should increase the capabilities of those agencies to receive those people that are deinstitutionalized from the Beatrice State Developmental Center. You have an assurance that money is going to be spent, and if you have any confidence at all in your leadership, you will feel it is going to be spent for the best purposes of those deinstitutionalized persons. I feel it will be, but if you put the money into the Department of Institutions, what can you assure me, how can you assure me that we won't have a repeat of this year's performance. Senator Burrows, could you answer that? How can you assure me that we won't have another repeat of this year's performance?

SENATOR BURROWS: I am not that critical or sure that we had that bad a performance this year. We have had...it would be better not to spend the money, I feel, than to spend it for either administration or buildings that were not being used, which has happened in the Omaha region, \$30,000 a year contracted on, we have been spending for buildings that were not used. There was a substantial rift at the Martin Luther Home where it was a personality conflict I felt where they slapped a group of people into another program without any concern of the human impact on those individuals involved.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Excuse me, Senator. You are complaining about the programs but you are not telling me what kind of assurance you are going to give me that the money is going to be spent instead of sitting there in the treasury as it is this year.

SENATOR BURROWS: I am giving no assurance that the money will be spent and I think it is better that it not be spent if it is not spent for the welfare of the recipients, the people that are actually going to get it, and this I am not sure will happen if it is spent.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Thank you, Senator. There have been some problems in the mental retardation programs. The basic problem is in the structure in which they were established in this state. We created a very unusual, we will say, administrative structure in this state but that is some time ago. That money being spent is going to be bringing more benefits than if it is not spent at all, Senator.

PRESIDENT: You have one minute, Senator.

SENATOR BEREUTER: That money, again, if it is spent is going to bring benefits. It may not be spent in the...to the greatest benefit. We all have our ideas about how it could be better spent but it certainly is doing no good sitting there drawing interest except good in terms of the state's financial benefit. It specifically is not benefiting the mentally retarded nor is it assisting the community